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04.14.10, 06:00 AM EDT

RANK	METRO AREA	COST OF DOING BUSINESS (RANK) ¹	JOB GROWTH PROJECTED (RANK) ²	EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT (RANK) ³	METRO AREA POPULATION (THOU)
1	Sioux Falls SD	5	24	31	238
2	Iowa City IA	37	42	3	152
3	Manhattan KS	9	128	19	123
4	Bismarck ND	21	17	24	106
5	Logan UT	18	94	21	128
6	Auburn AL	47	2	26	136
7	Bend OR	47	27	30	159
8	Columbia MO	35	70	7	166
9	Fargo ND	95	54	16	200
10	Morgantown WV	63	28	35	120
11	Rapid City SD	1	50	46	125
12	Lafayette IN	34	98	19	196
13	Waterloo IA	72	20	67	165
14	Sioux City IA	30	36	95	144
15	Dubuque IA	65	1	62	93
16	Bloomington IN	33	119	23	186
17	Ames IA	53	163	5	87
18	Charlottesville VA	108	73	6	197
19	Corvallis OR	81	64	4	83
20	College Station TX	96	5	16	212
21	Lawrence KS	42	38	2	116
22	St. George UT	40	58	51	137
23	Santa Fe NM	101	8	13	148
24	Greenville NC	32	75	50	180
25	Billings MT	89	14	42	155



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¹Index based on cost of labor, energy, taxes and office space. ²3-year annualized figures. ³Share of Population over age 25 with a bachelor's degree or higher. Sources: Moody's Economy.com; Sperling's BestPlaces; FBI; U.S. Census.



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